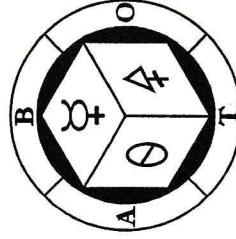


TAROT INTERPRETATION

LESSON 8



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B.O.T.A.**

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TAROT INTERPRETATION

Lesson Eight

You have now completed your preliminary study of Tarot. From here on you will learn how to use the Tarot Keys for the purpose of realizing your heart's desire.

We assume that your heart's desire involves no conflict with the rights and happiness of others. Surely you have the good sense to know that nothing in true occultism will enable you to gain any tricky advantage over another human being. Your previous studies have taught you the folly of expecting something for nothing. Remember always that it is **impossible** to employ the higher forces for any but right ends.

All that a black magician ever accomplishes is his own downfall, his own mental and physical deterioration. Selfish personal motives are themselves enough to debar him who harbors them from making any use of subtle spiritual energy. Selfishness clouds the mind so that it cannot perceive the true import of the instruction.

However clear the teaching, he who would misuse it is sure to misunderstand it. Ignorance cannot employ powers reserved for the expression of wisdom. Study and practice as much as he may, he who intends to use Ageless Wisdom to further his own interests at the expense of another will meet with nothing but disappointment.

Consider well your motives, therefore, and make up your mind what you want to be, and what you want to do, more than anything else. See yourself engaged in the kinds of action appropriate to the expression of your heart's desire. Make your mental images clear and definite. You cannot be too specific.

Vivid imagery like this will, naturally, include all necessary details concerning the means or instrumentalities you need in order to carry out your action. Set your mental stage with scenery appropriate to the best possible realization of your desire. Yet remember that to see yourself having what you now suppose you need is far less important than to see yourself doing what you want to do.

Pay no attention whatever to any who would persuade you that you need only hold fast to the essential idea of your main purpose. This may sound well, but it won't work. Certainly you must have a definite idea, a central motive. This is indispensable, but if you are to experience anything like full realization, the idea must be clothed with specific mental imagery.

We shall assume, then, that you know what you want and that you are ready to devote yourself wholeheartedly to the realization of your aim. Now fix firmly in mind the following principle which is fundamental to this whole course of instruction:

REALIZATION IS A STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS: IT IS THE ILLUMINED PERCEPTION OF THINGS AS THEY ARE, SUPPLANTING THE DELUDED ACCEPTANCE OF THINGS AS THEY LOOK.

The twenty-two Tarot Keys were designed to bring about the needed change in consciousness to make this realization possible. They were invented by adepts in realization. They represent the fundamental states of human consciousness as expressed in the thought of illuminated men and women. He who impresses their symbols deeply upon his brain cells plants within himself the seeds of illumined realization. For him are confirmed the words of Eliphas Levi:

“The Tarot is a book which is the sum of all the sciences, which can resolve all problems by its infinite combinations, which speaks by evoking thought, and is the inspirer and regulator of all possible conceptions.”

The first page of this magical book pictures the hidden force which is at work in the process of realization. Your previous studies have given you some idea of the meaning of Key 0. The degree of your success in doing what you want to do will be measured strictly by your understanding of its deeper significance. It sums up what the wisest of men have learned about the One Energy behind all appearances. It tells you what they know. It also tells you what they do not know.

The force which makes possible the realization of your heart's desire is occult because it is hidden from the ignorant. Among the oldest books in the world are those written by men who understood and used it. In this dawn of a New Age, a greater number of persons are ready to assimilate and apply this ancient knowledge; but even today prepared minds are in the minority. Yet from that minority are chosen the real, though hidden, masters of the world.

No wise man pretends to know the innermost nature of this hidden force. None pretends to define it. Lao-tze says of it: “The TAO which is the subject of discussion is not the true Tao; the quality which can be named is not its true attribute.”

Occult names for it are merely convenient designations, identifying labels. We do not know just what it is any more than we know just what electricity is, and **nobody needs to know!** The wise, therefore, avoid all useless quest in this direction.

Unknowableness is a concept recently accepted by modern science. It applies to Absolutes which cannot be known by the finite mind. Infinity is an Absolute. Thoughts about it can be entertained and it is somewhat extensively discussed in the more recent departments of the mathematics. Nevertheless it is an Absolute concerning which no definition in terms of anything finite can be given.

Einstein has taught us that Absolute Space and Time are unknowable to the human mind and hence undiscoverable by experiment. But this is not to say that these and other Absolutes cannot profitably be used and dealt with in their relative aspects. Thus Absolute Space when modified by the finite concept of distance between objects, and Absolute Time when considered as the periodic movement of the hands of clocks, are concepts which we use every moment of our lives.

The manifested attributes of Absolutes can and must be dealt with in human thought, but not the Absolutes themselves. The hidden force mentioned above is an Absolute. It is the One Thing which is the source of all else. Therefore it cannot possibly be identified with any of the things which proceed from it. From the deepest antiquity it has been recognized and designated by terms for which the English equivalent is NO-THING.

Of this No-Thing the zero sign is a symbol. Zero also signified freedom from limitations called "time" and "space," in their relative aspects, of course. Thus the Fool shows that the hidden force is always in the position suggested by the picture. It is always at the height of its power, yet there is always something higher beyond. It has limitless possibilities for finer and better types of manifestation. Let this realization sink deep into your mind: neither time nor space can bind the hidden force. It is always perfectly free, nor can any condition limit its free self-expression.

Being boundless, it is necessarily **present**. "All the power that ever was or will be is here now." Its energy, manifested as the light of stars, maintains itself without the slightest loss through millions of light-years, and propagates itself without deviation through reaches of space whose immensity staggers our imaginations. Where anything is, it is; and where nothing seems to be, there it is also.

You yourself are completely filled with the real presence of the hidden force. All that you are is an assemblage of manifold veils that hide it, and, by hiding it, make it "occult." Your body is made of it. It is the substance of your food and the earth beneath your feet, all of your possessions. This is the One Reality, manifest in all things you know and dwelling in everything outside your present range of knowledge, also.

The universe is a great ocean of vibrating electro-magnetic energy. Psychologists assure us that this energy appears as "objects" when its vibrations are distinguished within relatively narrow fields perceptible to our senses. If our sense organs should change a little, we should find ourselves in a new world full of things unknown to us now. These things actually exist, even now, though we can form no clear idea of what they are like.

Matter as a separate entity, does not exist. Sir William Ostwald calls the noun "matter" a mere generalization invented by man to account for his various experiences of an energy which presents itself in physical forms. Everything in the physical plane emerges from a

wholly invisible and immaterial source which is usually termed electro-magnetic energy. The primal physical form of this energy is light, or radiation, and everything else is made of this radiation. This is the substance of what is now taught by such leaders of modern science as Eddington, Jeans and Millikan.

What they advance in their latest books has a familiar ring to students versed in the lore of Ageless Wisdom. "Light is the veil of the Boundless, and all things are from that Light," says the Inner School of Western occultism that invented Tarot. "That which hath been made was life in the Creative Thought, and the life was the light," is the declaration at the beginning of the Gospel according to St. John.

This living light is often given a name which means "Life-Breath." The term is no figure of speech. Our atmosphere is really made of light. The atoms of its gases are built up of electrons, themselves points of radiant energy. Every electron is a point at which lines of magnetic force converge. Their convergence sets up whirling motion at the electronic point. This whirling motion is represented by the ten yellow wheels on the Fool's dress.

In proportion to their size, electrons are as far apart as are the stars. Thus the active units of energy in the universe, the electrons, are separated by relatively vast expanses of apparently empty space.

Dwell on this idea for awhile. It will help you overcome one great obstacle to realization, namely the notion that because the things of the physical plane seem hard and solid to our senses they offer resistance to the passage of the hidden force. Think of radio waves, bringing music from distant stations into your home through solid walls. Think of cosmic rays, penetrating many feet of "solid" lead. There are finer vibrations than these to the action of which nothing physical can oppose a barrier. As we read in the Emerald Tablet of Hermes: "This is the strong force of all forces, overcoming every subtle and penetrating every solid thing."

Electrons, as we have said, are separated from one another by vast expanses of apparently empty space. It is not really empty. Space is filled with the Life-Breath. It is everywhere, between things as well as in them. They may be small as electrons or big as Betelgeuse, but **things** are limited areas or fields wherein the occult force takes on physical form. All **things** are waves in an ocean of light.

The earth is a wheel in a machine driven by solar force. The movements of matter on its surface, including your personal actions, are transformations of the sun's radiance. Everything pictured in Key 0 is an image of some form of solar energy. Even the earth itself is made of electrons which were once part of the sun's mass.

The measured beat of waves upon the shore, the slow, majestic progress of the Amazon sweeping down to the sea, the song of a mountain rill running to meet its mates and join its

waters with theirs, the bubbling of hillside springs, the fall of every raindrop—these are the watery vestures of solar light and heat.

The gale, driving storm-clouds across the sky, the breeze stirring the curtain, the wild tornado cutting a swathe of death, the steady trade winds carrying proud ships on peaceful errands of commerce—these are phases of the influence of sunlight on our atmosphere. Every breath drawn by living creatures and every transformation of that breath into sound expresses the same power. Every prayer and every curse, every word of wisdom and every utterance of folly, is made possible by sunshine. The shrill call of bugles sounding the attack, the solemn music echoing beneath cathedral arches—these are the sunlight's garments of air.

Every fire that burns is a flame lit and sustained by the sun. The history of human culture is the story of man's mastery of fire. Almost everything we own has passed through fire, or has been fashioned by machines driven by fire. The energy of fuel is imprisoned sunlight. And what more wonderful than the slow fire in our bodies, lit before our birth, which, while it burns, is life itself. Mastery of this vital flame is one of the greatest occult secrets to be learned from your present studies.

This fire takes form as thought through the functions of your brain. Your brain itself is made of light like everything else. It changes sunlight into mental imagery.

Thought at your end, the expressing end of the cosmic play of light vibration, implies a mental quality within the source of these waves of living light. The hidden force is life force and mind force as well as the root of all physical energies. Thus the Wisdom of Israel ascribes Fiery Intelligence to the letter corresponding to Key 0.

During this week, memorize the following:

The character א, Aleph, is also the Hebrew number 1. In Roman letters it is transcribed as A.

The letter-name אֶלֶף (ALP, Aleph) means Ox or Bull. Its numerical value is 111.

The letter Aleph stands for רוח (RVCh), Ruach, the Life-Breath, and for the element of air.

It is the sign of the Fiery Intelligence.

To it is attributed the planet Uranus.

It is a symbol for superconsciousness.

Whenever you are beset by appearances of limitation, call up before your mind's eye the picture of the Fool. Absorb its message of absolute freedom. Remember, this is a pictorial suggestion formulated by adepts. Your subconsciousness will accept and act upon it. It is a treatment for realization, carefully worked out by Those Who Know.

It is also a means for mental and spiritual contact with members of the Inner School, virtuosi in the art of living, who have completed the work you are now beginning. Make it, then, an integral part of your flesh and blood by looking at it every day until every detail of the design is imprinted on your brain.

I AM,
Without beginning, without end,
Older than night or day,
Younger than the babe new-born.
Brighter than light,
Darker than darkness,
Beyond all things and creatures.
Yet fixed in the heart of everyone.

From me the shining worlds flow forth,
To me all at last return,
Yet to me neither men nor angels
May draw nigh,
For I am known only to myself.

Ever the same is mine inmost being;
Absolutely one, complete, whole, perfect;
Always itself;
Eternal, infinite, ultimate;
Formless, indivisible, changeless.

From the BOOK OF TOKENS
by Dr. Paul Foster Case